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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

15 MAR 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE DIRECTOR

FROM :

25X1A

SUBJECT : Suggestions Made by the Visiting University  
Presidents, 15 February 1979 (U)

25X1A

25X1A

1. [REDACTED], in his 21 February memorandum on the same sub-  
ject, raised in paragraph 1 some concerns about the kinds of questions  
asked by DCD field officers. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was reported to have remarked that the DCD  
officer who questioned him after return from a trip to the Soviet Union  
"seemed only interested in what he had learned about Soviet military  
matters." He suggested that the questions should be broader in scope.  
The [REDACTED] memorandum, with your comments, is attached. (U)

2. Our records show that NFAC analysts send more S&T and eco-  
nomic requirements to DCD than military requirements. There currently  
are 174 NFAC requirements on the Soviet Union open with DCD (the number  
changes regularly as requirements are opened and closed). Most of  
these are tailored for particular collection possibilities, but about  
50 are more general "screening" requirements used to help determine  
the collection potential of particular sources. Of the 174, some 106  
were originated by the Office of Scientific Intelligence; 33 by the  
Office of Economic Research; and the others were joint requirements  
or came from various other NFAC offices (e.g., 4 from OSR, 5 from OWI).  
While a number of the S&T requirements are concerned with subjects  
that may ultimately have some military significance, less than 15 of  
all requirements from all offices are clearly and directly concerned  
with military topics. The mix of requirements by category (i.e., S&T,  
military, etc.) is largely determined by the access of DCD sources. (S)

25X1A3. If DCD does not know exactly who or what a source (e.g.,  
[REDACTED] saw in the Soviet Union that might be of interest to  
NFAC, then the contact officer can and ordinarily will use appropriate  
screening requirements. He also can make use of documents such as the  
Economic Alert List (EAL). We publish an annual USSR EAL edition on

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behalf of the Economic Intelligence Committee and the State CERP program. In any event, we assume that the contact officer would be careful to encourage the source to share any information of potential value arising out of such a visit. (S)

4. NFAC analysts have found that DCD reporting historically is more useful for data on S&T and economic topics than for information on military and political subjects. For example, our Publications Source Survey shows that for FY 1978 DCD reporting was a key (essential) source for 14 percent of NFAC intelligence reports on Soviet S&T topics; 8 percent on economic subjects; but only 2 percent on military topics. Similarly, for National Intelligence Daily articles, DCD reporting was key for 11 percent of the NID articles on Soviet S&T matters and for 8 percent on economic topics; there were no NID military articles where DCD made a key contribution. (S)

5. The NFAC Requirements and Evaluation Staff has been in contact with DCD regarding the [REDACTED] interviews. Information available to DCD shows that he last visited the Soviet Union in the mid-70's when he was still working in the Washington, D.C. area as a Deputy Administrator of NASA. Since [REDACTED] is an aeronautical engineer with long experience with manned space flight activities, we assume that the DCD contact officers did question him primarily about Soviet space programs and other S&T matters. However, contrary to the observation in [REDACTED] memo, DCD stresses that field people are not "controlled by the guidance they receive from Headquarters." [REDACTED] says that he was misunderstood.) Rather, field officers are encouraged to fully explore collection potential and to report information likely to be of interest to any NFAC (or non-NFAC) user. (C)

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[REDACTED]  
Robert R. Bowie

Attachment:  
As Stated

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Presidents, 15 February 1979 (U)

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- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A
- 1 - C/DCD Central Staff
- ① - Mr. [REDACTED], Coordinator for  
Academic Relations, NFAC
- 1 - C/RES
- 1 - D. [REDACTED]/RES/RSG
- 1 - RES/RSG Chrono

NFAC/RES/RSG: [REDACTED] ep:5577 (14 March 1979)

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ATTACHMENT

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ATTACHMENT

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REFERENCE

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NFAC #0904/79

21 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM : Coordinator for Academic Relations, NFAC

SUBJECT : Suggestions Made by the Visiting University  
Presidents, 15 February 1979

STATINTL

1. I believe it was [REDACTED] who made the remark that when he was questioned by the DCD field man after his return from a trip to the Soviet Union, the questioner seemed only interested in what he had learned about Soviet military matters. He suggested that the questions should be broader in scope, including other items of interest to NFAC such as he as a university president was more likely to be informed about. I understood you to want me to look into this and also to advise DCD to urge any academic contacts who seemed particularly knowledgeable about political, economic, or social developments in countries they had visited to offer their insights to the appropriate analysts. I spoke to [REDACTED], Chief of the Domestic Collection Division (of DDO) about both these points briefly. On the first he said that his field people were pretty well controlled by the guidance they receive from Headquarters on the information they should be seeking. On the second he said that his field people frequently refer their academic contacts to specific analysts, usually by directing copies of their interrogation reports to the Agency officers they believe can use the information. On both points he said, in general, that his resources are being stretched to the limit. I gathered that while he would be happy to receive any word of changed priorities, he would be overcome by any additional tasks.

STATINT

2. In the discussion with John McMahon, President Cyert of Carnegie-Mellon suggested that CIA recruiters sent to university and college campuses should preferably be (or be accompanied by, presumably) alumni of that institution. I don't suppose this is often workable, but I'll pass the suggestion to Personnel just in case. Hesburgh of Notre Dame suggested attention to the ROTC units as promising sources of recruits.

*which is (improperly) probably accented to mil - let's hope*

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15 February 1979

3. Good of Denison, in the concluding discussion, mentioned an arrangement the State Department had some years ago by which academic specialists were brought into the Department and attached to the desk of their country of competence for short periods--two weeks. He said that the educational effect of this was very impressive, that reading the cables and watching the desk officers at work was a revelation to the academics who had hitherto known the policy process only from the outside. Turner remarked that this might be difficult for us to do owing to the burden of security clearance and other such things, but it was worth thinking about.


4. In two of the sessions, when the subject of support for foreign language and area studies was being discussed, the suggestion was made by Father Hesburgh that the government should offer to fund centers devoted to various subjects of interest to it in institutions around the country, leaving it to the colleges and universities to come forward and propose the centers for which they wanted support. In one of these sessions John McMahon said that he recalled a time when a proposal very similar to this was favored by the Agency but that the decision had been made to pass the ball to State and it died there. In the concluding session Frank Carlucci said that when he was in State he had been one of the opponents of aid to institutions, such as centers, favoring aid to students (and scholars?--he did not specify) instead. This seemed to meet with some agreement though it was my impression that the presidents still favored support for institutions as well as individuals. The suggestion was also made in the final session that the best way to get Farsee-speaking economists is to hire competent economists and then train them in Farsee in-house. Turner said this is, in effect, what we do. I think it was Low who said that this is obviously the way to do it because "anybody can learn a language." I objected, with some support from other presidents (I believe), on the ground that language gifts aren't distributed in the same way that talents for economics and other disciplines are. (On this, see the note appended at the end).

5. In the final session, MacVicar of Oregon State suggested the virtues of granting Agency analysts sabbatical leaves that might be used by them to renew their acquaintance with the academic world, apparently as the intelligence equivalent of State's Diplomat-in-Residence program,

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25X1A though he was not very specific and I understood him to mean sabbaticals for study or research. Turner asked me if we didn't do this already. I said we do frequently fund analysts to go back to school but do not schedule this as a regular part of each analyst's career.



7. It is notable that of the seven university presidents who were present on this occasion, two are presidents of technical institutions (Cyert of Carnegie-Mellon and Low of Rensselaer Polytechnic) and two are presidents of public universities that pride themselves on their technical departments (Davison of Georgia and MacVicar of Oregon State). Even so, the technical emphasis wasn't much in evidence except when one of the presidents (I believe it was Low of Rensselaer) asked at our first meeting if the Agency was successful in obtaining the information it needed regarding Soviet scientific developments and when Cyert later remarked that his graduates are in a seller's market, so much so that it is difficult for the university itself to compete for the best of them.

STATINTL



Note: The discussion on the language needs of the Agency could have stood some elaboration. The problem, as I see it, is not to acquire competent economists, etc. with some reading knowledge of foreign languages. Except for especially alien tongues such as Chinese this probably is not too difficult. But the need is not in all cases merely for someone who can read an occasional article in a foreign language with help of a dictionary. The need is also for quite a number of analysts who are steeped in the culture of the country whose language they are trying to use. It wasn't for lack of Farsee-reading analysts that understanding of events in Iran left something



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to be desired. Further, Russian dictionary-readers are not likely to be able to, or interested in, keeping up with the mass of professional journals available in the Russian language these days. Yet lack of familiarity with this literature, [REDACTED] agrees, is a weakness of our analytic staff. In sum, in addition to analysts whose work in English is supplemented by a barely usable reading knowledge of foreign languages, the Agency (and NFAC in particular) needs a generous seeding of genuine regional specialists, possessing, among other items of equipment, in-depth knowledge of the language and literature of the countries they are specialists on.

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NFAC/CAR/ [REDACTED] js (21 February 1979)

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University Presidents Visit

15 February 1979

Attendees:

Thomas A. Bartlett  
Richard Michael Cyert  
Frederick Davison  
Robert Crocker Good  
Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh  
George Michael Low  
Robert William MacVicar

Association of American Universities  
Carnegie-Mellon University  
University of Georgia  
Denison University  
University of Notre Dame  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Oregon State University

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